(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to offer a 'golden handsake' to such employees; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Uptron India Limited, a public sector unit of the Govt. of U.P. has been declared as a sick industrial company by the BIFR on 19.8.94.

The Prime Minister had stated at Allahabad on 28.8.96 that the Public Sector Undertaking UPTRON shall not be sold during President's Rule in U.P. and the new elected government will take final decision in this regard.

(b) Number of employees as on 31.1.97 are as follows :

Class I	145
Class II	244
Class III	1584
Class IV	365
	2338

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Information Technology Industry

3892. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the visit of the Israeli President and his delegation has been a boon to the Indian Information Technology industry;

(b) if so, whether according to the representative of the Israeli soft-ware industry and Managing Director of MLL and Services Ltd., India's weakness in systems software programming, India will need to focus on skills for development of packages, in addition to its current strength in projects;

(c) whether any agreement was signed in this regard with the Israeli Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Both sides evinced keen interest to explore possibilities for cooperation in various high-technology areas including Information Technology.

(b) There was no such discussion.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Polluted Water

3893. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the supply of polluted water to the people of Kanpur city by water supply department of Kanpur (U.P.);

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking stern action against the persons found responsible for it; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide safe drinking water ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Kanpur Jal Sansthan has reported that polluted water is not being supplied to the people of Kanpur city.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Raw water from river Ganga and Lower Ganga Canal is treated by conventional methods, i.e. coagulation, filteration and disinfection. Ground water from deep tubewells is supplied after disinfection. Under the World Bank project, settling tank no. 2 has been remodelled.

A new 200 mld filteration plan and pre & post chlorination plants have been commissioned is improve the water quality. Regular monitoring of water quality is being done.

[English]

Private Sector Transmission Projects

3894. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many private sector transmission projects are violating the Electricity Act and they are earning the return more than permissible amount fixed under the Act;

(b) if so, the percentage of returns by these private projects during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) There are no private sector transmission companies, as on today, dealing exclusively with transmission of power.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.